



*an independent federal advisory committee
on environmental sustainability in the
U.S.-Mexico border region*

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**Mr. Donald Hobbs
BECC General Counsel
P.O. Box 221648
El Paso, TX 79913**

Dear Mr. Hobbs,

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board thanks you once again for the opportunity to provide ideas on potential pilot projects in the new areas included under BECC and NADB's expanded mandate.

We discussed your invitation to comment during our recent meeting in Yuma, Arizona, on March 21-22. After careful deliberation, the Board decided that it was not currently in a position to submit specific pilot project recommendations without first gaining a clearer understanding of the following issues:

- We understand that the primary purpose of the mandate expansion is to develop environmental projects in which NADB financing at non-subsidized rates would be viable. Given that there already is a waiting list for project development funding, how would funding for these pilot projects be handled? What, if any, would the effects be on the existing pool?
- Will technical assistance to communities be provided in-house? If not, would BECC/NADB be willing to reimburse other technical assistance entities or provide funds to communities (as it does in some other cases) to obtain their own assistance?
- Will expanded mandate activities be carried out with the same transparency as prescribed for other portions of the program? We presume the answer is yes, but please confirm.
- How would pilot project funding and operations relate to the 501(c)(3) North American Development Foundation?

The Board would greatly appreciate a response to its questions. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Espinosa,

Chair

cc Raul Rodriguez, NADB Managing Director

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